Export Development Authority (MPEDA) on the basis of shipping bills and invoices, the export of frozen shrimp declined by 0.85% in quantity and increased by 0.92% in dollar terms during January-May, 2005 as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

(b) Necessary promotional support is being extended to ensure upgradation of processing facilities, expansion of aquaculture, training and other capacity building measures, value addition, marketing support.

Promotion of export of leather

1734. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have identified the leather industry as a thrust sector in view of significant export growth prospects and enormous employment potential particularly in semi-urban and rural areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to capture at least five per cent of World Trade in leather within the next five years; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) Government is taking steps to implement the Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDP), with an outlay of Rs. 400 crore, *inter-alia* for technology upgradation, modernisation and expansion of the leather industry as well as for infrastructure development and capacity building. Government is also supporting exports of leather products through the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme and the Market Access Initiative Scheme.

Floriculture production and export

1735. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop floriculture production and epxort them from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and